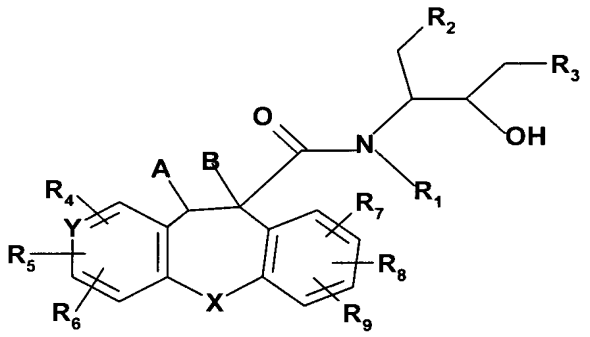
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I



I

wherein

X is O ~~, NH, N(C_{1-4})alkyl, CO or CHOH~~,

Y is CH ~~or N~~,

A and B are each hydrogen or together form a second bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached,

R_1 is hydrogen or ~~(C1-4)alkyl~~ (C_{1-4})alkyl,

R_2 is optionally substituted (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

R_3 is $CH(R_e)CONR_aR_b$ or $(CH_2)_nNR_cR_d$,

n is 0, 1 or 2,

R_a, R_b, R_c and R_d, independently, are hydrogen or optionally substituted (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{7-9})bicycloalkyl, 1-aza-(C_{7-9})bicycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-4})alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl(C_{1-4})alkyl or heterocyclyl, or

R_a, R_b, R_c and R_d, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form an optionally substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino or piperazinyl group,

R_e is (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkoxy(C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, and

R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9, independently, are hydrogen, (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkoxy, (C_{1-4})alkyl-SO_2, cyano, nitro or halogen, in free base or acid addition salt form.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein

X is O ~~, NH, N(C_{1-4})alkyl, CO or CHOH~~,

Y is CH ~~or N~~,

A and B are each hydrogen or together form a second bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached,

R_1 is hydrogen or (C_{1-4})alkyl,

R_2 is optionally substituted (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

R_3 is $CH(R_e)CONR_aR_b$ or $(CH_2)_nNR_cR_d$,

n is 0, 1 or 2,

R_a, R_b, R_c and R_d, independently, are hydrogen or optionally substituted (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_{1-4})alkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaryl(C_{1-4})alkyl or

R_a, R_b, R_c and R_d, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, form an optionally substituted pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino or piperazinyl group,

R_e is (C_{1-8})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkoxy(C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, and

R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9, independently, are hydrogen, (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkoxy, (C_{1-4})alkyl-SO_2, cyano, nitro or halogen, in free base or acid addition salt form.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein

X is O ~~, NH or CO~~,

Y is CH ~~or N~~,

A and B are each hydrogen or together form a second bond between the carbon atoms to which they are attached,

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2 is (C_{1-4})alkyl, or

phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, amino or halogen,

R_3 is $CH(R_e)CONR_aR_b$ or $(CH_2)_nNR_cR_d$,

n is 0 or 1,

R_a and R_b, independently, are hydrogen, (C_{1-7})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkoxy(C_{1-4})alkyl, benzyl, phenyl, (C_{3-5})cycloalkyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, pyridyl, pyridyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkyl piperidinyl,

tetrahydropyranyl, (C_{7-8})bicycloalkyl, 1-aza-(C_{7-9})bicycloalkyl; (C_{5-6})cycloalkyl substituted by hydroxy; or pyrazolyl or isoxazolyl being unsubstituted or substituted by (C_{1-4})alkyl;

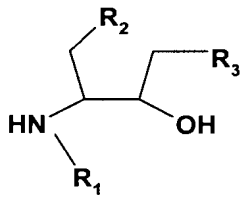
R_c and R_d, independently, are hydrogen, tetrahydronaphthyl, (C_{1-4})alkoxy tetrahydronaphthyl, (C_{3-5})cycloalkyl being unsubstituted or substituted by halophenyl; chromanyl being substituted by halogen, (C_{1-4})alkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl; or (C_{1-4})alkyl being unsubstituted or mono or disubstituted by (C_{5-7})cycloalkyl, phenyl, (C_{1-4})alkoxy phenyl, di(C_{1-4})alkoxy phenyl, halophenyl, phenoxy phenyl, (C_{1-4})alkyl phenyl, hydroxy (C_{1-4})alkyl phenyl, (C_{1-4})alkoxy (C_{1-4})alkoxy phenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, thiadiazolyl, benzimidazolyl or furyl;

R_e is (C_{1-8})alkyl, and

R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9, independently, are hydrogen or halogen,

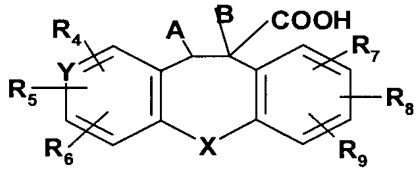
in free base or acid addition salt form.

Claim 4. (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof, which includes the steps of acylating a compound of formula II



II

wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are as defined in claim 1, with an acid of formula III



III

wherein X, Y, A, B, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8 and R_9 are as defined in claim 1, or an activated form thereof, and recovering the so obtained compound of formula I in free base or acid addition salt form.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 in free base of pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt form, in association with a pharmaceutical carrier or diluent.

Claim 8-11. (Canceled)